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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,789	12/14/2001	Sarah Metcalfe	125090.00015	1625

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EXAMINER
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WU, RUTAO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3628

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/05/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/014,789	<b>Applicant(s)</b> METCALFE ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Rob Wu	<b>Art Unit</b> 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 43-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 43-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 12, 2006 has been entered.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1, 44, 52 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The claims recite "assigning a plurality of users an access authorization level to **each purchasing transaction** in the central database." The specification does not provided support for the limitation. The material provided in the specification that is closest to the limitation state "through the

use of the security module 120, each user 130 to 150 will have varying degrees of access and privileges to data stored by the system 100. User access and privileges to purchase orders and delivery orders stored in the system 100 will generally depend on the enterprise that a user is associated with and the role[s] assigned to that user.” (Page 7 paragraph 3 in the specification originally filed). From the disclosure provided, the user’s access authorization level is assigned based on the user’s association with an organization, i.e. user from a supplier company only has access to supply information and user from a purchasing company only has access to purchasing information, and the access authorization is not assigned to **each purchasing transaction** whereby the possibly exist that the access authorization level for a user differs on a purchasing transaction basis, e.g. a user has access authorization to view and edit an purchasing transaction for transaction A and that same user only has access authorization to view the purchasing transaction for transaction B.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 43 , 46-49, 51, 54-57, 59, 62-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat No. 5,694,551 to Doyle et al.

**Referring to claim 43:**

A computer-implemented method for sharing supply chain purchasing transactions, comprising:

Creating a central database for storing and sharing components of purchasing transactions, including purchase orders and delivery orders; (col 3: lines 12-16)

Providing a purchase order module made selectively available to a plurality of users in the supply chain, the purchase order module having access to the central database for importing and accessing a purchase order; (col 5: lines 59-65)

Providing a delivery order module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the delivery order module having access to the central database for accessing a delivery order having attributes corresponding to the purchase order; (col 4: lines 5-13) and

Providing a monitoring module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the monitoring module having access to the central database to allow authorized users to access and update the purchase and delivery orders stored in the central database. (col 5: lines 59-65)

**Referring to claim 46:**

The computer-implemented method of claim 43, wherein the plurality of users are selected from the group consisting of buyers, sellers, suppliers, and third parties to the purchase transaction. (col 3: lines 34-40)

**Referring to claim 47:**

The computer-implemented method of claim 43, wherein the purchase order has user defined attributed selected from the group consisting of purchase order number,

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designated supplier, delivery date, delivery location, description of purchase item, quantity, price, and status. (Fig 11)

**Referring to claim 48:**

The computer-implemented method of claim 43, wherein the attributes for the delivery order are selected from the group consisting of purchase order number, customer, delivery order number, delivery date, origin, and status. (col 8: lines 40-45)

**Referring to claim 49:**

The computer-implemented method of claim 43, wherein the purchase order and delivery order are linked through the central database. (Fig 3)

**Referring to claim 51:**

A computer program product usable with a programmable computer processor having a computer readable program code embodied therein, comprising:

Computer readable program code which creates a central database for storing and sharing components of purchasing transactions, including purchase orders and delivery orders; (col 3: lines 12-16)

Computer readable program code which implements a purchase order module made selectively available to a plurality of users in the supply chain, the purchase order module having access to the central database for importing and accessing a purchase order; (col 5: lines 59-65)

Computer readable program code which implements a delivery order module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the delivery order

module having access to the central database for accessing a delivery order having attributes corresponding to the purchase order; (col 4: lines 5-13) and

Computer readable program code which implements a monitoring module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the monitoring module having access to the central database to allow authorized users to access and update the purchase orders and delivery orders stored in the central database. (col 5: lines 59-65)

**Referring to claim 54:**

The computer program product of claim 51, wherein the plurality of users are selected from the group consisting of buyers, sellers, suppliers, and third parties to the purchase transaction. (col 3: lines 34-40)

**Referring to claim 55:**

The computer program product of claim 51, wherein the purchase order has user defined attributes selected from the group consisting of purchase order number, designated supplier, delivery date, delivery location, description of purchase item, quantity, price, and status. (Fig 11)

**Referring to claim 56:**

The computer program product of claim 51, wherein the attributes for the delivery order are selected from the group consisting of purchase order number, customer, delivery order number, delivery date, origin, and status. (col 8: lines 40-45)

**Referring to claim 57:**

The computer program product of claim 51, wherein the purchase order and delivery order are linked through the central database. (Fig 3)

**Referring to claim 59:**

A computer system for sharing supply chain purchasing transactions, comprising:

Means for creating a central database for storing and sharing components of purchasing transactions, including purchase orders and delivery orders; (col 3: lines 12-16)

A purchase order module made selectively available to a plurality of users in the supply chain, the purchase order module having access to the central database for importing and accessing a purchase order; (col 5: lines 59-65)

A delivery order module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the delivery order module having access to the central database for accessing a delivery order having attributes corresponding to the purchase order; (col 4: lines 5-13) and

A monitoring module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the monitoring module having access to the central database to allow authorized users to access and update the purchase orders and delivery orders stored in the central database. (col 5: lines 59-65)

**Referring to claim 62:**

The computer system of claim 59, wherein the plurality of users are selected from the group consisting of buyers, sellers, suppliers, and third parties to the purchase transaction. (col 3: lines 34-40)



**Referring to claim 63:**

The computer system of claim 59, wherein the purchase order has user defined attributes selected from the group consisting of purchase order number, designated supplier, delivery date, delivery location, description of purchase item, quantity, price, and status. (Fig 11)

**Referring to claim 64:**

The computer system of claim 59, wherein the attributes for the delivery order are selected from the group consisting of purchase order number, customer, delivery order number, delivery date, origin, and status. (col 8: lines 40-45)

**Referring to claim 65:**

The computer system of claim 59, wherein the purchase order and delivery order are linked through the central database. (Fig 3)

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-6, 44-45, 50, 52-53, 58, 60-61, 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat No. 5,694,551 to Doyle et al.

**Referring to claim 1:**

A method for sharing, tracking and updating supply chain purchasing transactions, comprising:

Creating a central database for storing and sharing components of purchasing transactions, including purchase orders and delivery orders; (col 3: lines 12-16)

Doyle et al disclose assigning a plurality of users an access authorization level, wherein the access authorization level to the purchasing transactions for each of the plurality of users is controlled by a filter (col 3: lines 36-40); Doyle et al does not expressly disclose assigning the access authorization level to each purchasing transaction in the central database. However, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to assign user access authorization level to each purchasing transaction thereby ensuring transaction security that only authorized user can access authorized transaction information.

Providing a purchase order module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain based on the access authorization level, the purchase order module having access to the central database for importing, accessing and updating a purchase order having user defined attributes; (col 5: lines 27-46)

Providing a delivery order module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain based on the access authorization level, the delivery order module having access to the central database for creating a delivery order having user defined attributes corresponding to the purchase order; (col 4: lines 5-14) and

Providing a monitoring module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain based on the access authorization level, the monitoring module

having access to the central database to allow authorized users to access and update the purchase orders and delivery orders stored in the central database (col 5: lines 37-47), (Fig 11).

**Referring to claim 2:**

The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of users are selected from the group consisting of buyers, sellers, suppliers, and third parties to the purchasing transaction. (col 3: lines 34-40)

**Referring to claim 3:**

The method of claim 1, wherein the user defined attributes for the purchase order are selected from the group consisting of purchase order number, designated supplier, delivery date, delivery location, description of purchase item, quantity, price, and status. (Fig 11)

**Referring to claim 4:**

The method of claim 1, wherein the user defined attributes for the delivery order are selected from the group consisting of purchase order number, customer, delivery order number, delivery date, origin, and status. (col 8: lines 40-45)

**Referring to claim 5:**

The method of claims 1, wherein the purchase order and delivery order are linked through the central database. (Fig 3)

**Referring to claim 6:**

Doyle et al disclose that when an update is entered by a customer then the information is also transmitted to the main system computer. (col 5: lines 59-65) Doyle

et al does not expressly disclose simultaneously update of the purchase order and delivery order. However, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for the purchase order and delivery order to be simultaneously updated by a global action. One would be motivated to perform such action to ensure that the transaction information gets to the supplier as soon as possible.

**Referring to claim 44:**

Doyle et al disclose assigning a plurality of users an access authorization level, wherein the access authorization level to the purchasing transactions for each of the plurality of users is controlled by a filter (col 3: lines 36-40); Doyle et al does not expressly disclose assigning the access authorization level to each purchasing transaction in the central database. However, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to assign user access authorization level to each purchasing transaction thereby ensuring transaction security that only authorized user can access authorized transaction information.

**Referring to claim 45:**

The computer-implemented method of claim 44, wherein the access level to the purchasing transaction for each of the plurality of users is controlled by a filter. (col 3: lines 37-40)

**Referring to claim 50:**

Doyle et al disclose that when an update is entered by a customer then the information is also transmitted to the main system computer. (col 5: lines 59-65) Doyle et al does not expressly disclose simultaneously update of the purchase order and

delivery order. However, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for the purchase order and delivery order to be simultaneously updated by a global action. One would be motivated to perform such action to ensure that the transaction information gets to the supplier as soon as possible.

**Referring to claim 52:**

Doyle et al disclose assigning a plurality of users an access authorization level, wherein the access authorization level to the purchasing transactions for each of the plurality of users is controlled by a filter (col 3: lines 36-40); Doyle et al does not expressly disclose assigning the access authorization level to each purchasing transaction in the central database. However, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to assign user access authorization level to each purchasing transaction thereby ensuring transaction security that only authorized user can access authorized transaction information.

**Referring to claim 53:**

The computer program product of claim 52, wherein the access level to the purchasing transactions for each of the plurality of users is controlled by a filter. (col 3: lines 37-40)

**Referring to claim 58:**

Doyle et al disclose that when an update is entered by a customer then the information is also transmitted to the main system computer. (col 5: lines 59-65) Doyle et al does not expressly disclose simultaneously update of the purchase order and delivery order. However, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for the

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purchase order and delivery order to be simultaneously updated by a global action.

One would be motivated to perform such action to ensure that the transaction information gets to the supplier as soon as possible.

**Referring to claim 60:**

Doyle et al disclose assigning a plurality of users an access authorization level, wherein the access authorization level to the purchasing transactions for each of the plurality of users is controlled by a filter (col 3: lines 36-40); Doyle et al does not expressly disclose assigning the access authorization level to each purchasing transaction in the central database. However, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to assign user access authorization level to each purchasing transaction thereby ensuring transaction security that only authorized user can access authorized transaction information.

**Referring to claim 61:**

The computer system of claim 60, wherein the access level to the purchasing transactions for each of the plurality of users is controlled by a filter. (col 3: lines 37-40)

**Referring to claim 66:**

Doyle et al disclose that when an update is entered by a customer then the information is also transmitted to the main system computer. (col 5: lines 59-65) Doyle et al does not expressly disclose simultaneously update of the purchase order and delivery order. However, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for the purchase order and delivery order to be simultaneously updated by a global action.

One would be motivated to perform such action to ensure that the transaction information gets to the supplier as soon as possible.

### ***Conclusion***

8. Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant.

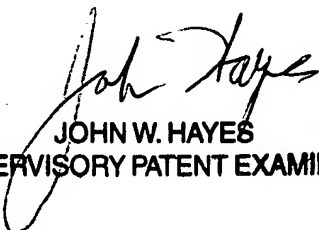
Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rob Wu whose telephone number is (571)272-3136. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER